Construction of Mini-Airport in Gulbarga

*27. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India had certified the suitability of land acquired by the Karnataka Government for the construction of mini-airport in Gulbarga; and

(b) if so, whether Government have given its approval to Jet airlines for operating 32 seater flights from Gulbarga to Bangalore, Hyderabad, Hubli and Belgaum?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) On the request of the State Government of Karnataka, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has carried out inspection of the site proposed by the State Government for development of an airport suitable for operation of B-737/AB-320 class of aircraft near Gulbarga on 9th May, 2001. The State Government has been advised regarding the mandatory clearances to be obtained and land required for the construction of a new airport from Greenfield stage.

Jet Airlines have not made any request for operations from Gulbarga so far.

Helicopter services in North-Eastern Region

* 28. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in NER which are not connected by helicopter services;

(b) the number of places in NER which are connected by the above services;

(c) whether there is any proposal to start new helicopter services to the places where no air/helicopter services are available; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Scheduled helicopter services are not being operated by any airline/operator in any part of the country, including the North-Eastem Region. However, State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya have obtained the services of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) for providing helicopters on charter basis.

(c) and (d) PHHL has sent proposals to State Governments of Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Assam for providing helicopter services on charter basis and their responses are awaited.